

S O N G S O F S A I G O N

I N D E X

Aresvanderthe, Saigon	1
We Are Winning	2
Landlord Fill the Flowing Bowl	2
Sioux City Sue	2
Gotta Travel On	3
The Longest Year	4
Ghost Advisors By and By	5-6
MACV Fight Song	7
Let's Do It	7
The Streets of Saigon	8
The Yellow Rose of Saigon	9
Montagnard Sergeant	10
'Twas Coup Day	11-12
MACV Fight Song #2	13
MACV Marching Song	13
Cosmos Command Christmas Carols	14
JOT Song	15

Arceevaderche Saigon

Arceevaderche, Saigon

We hope you win your war
I'm looking for a job in Bangkok,
I'm looking for a job in Hong Kong,
I'm looking for a sinecure in Singapore.

The Viet Cong steal our weapons,
The Viet Cong hold them tight,
Now they're raiding our strategic hamlets
Now they're raiding our strategic hamlets
Wonder where the Bao An and the Dan Ve are tonight.

The Bao An steal our chickens
The Dan Ve steal our rice
And the Hamlet Chief is selling bulgar
With the GVN noting so vulgar
Is it any wonder that the VC seem so nice.

Where are the Special Forces
They're not on our frontier
They are beating up the nuns and bonzes
They are beating up the nuns and bonzes
That's the reason for the shooting that you hear.

They send us lots of Colonels
With chickens on their necks
They are working in coordination
They are working in coordination
They are making plans to win the war atop the Box.

Arceevaderche, Saigon

We hope you win your war
I'm looking for a job in Bangkok,
I'm looking for a job in Hong Kong,
I'm looking for a sinecure in Singapore.

WE ARE WINNING

(Tune: Rock of Ages)

We are winning, this we know
General Harkins tells us so.
Through the Delta things are tough,
In the Highlands very rough.
But the VC soon will go,
Mr. Cabot tells us so.
If you doubt them, who are you?
McNamara says so too.

(Tune: Landlord Fill the Flowing Bowl)

Landlord fill that rice man bowl,
And splash it on my dishce.
Landlord fill that rice man bowl
And splash it on my dishce.
Tonight we'll dysentary be,
Tonight we'll dysentary be,
Tonight we'll dysentary be,
Tomorrow we'll smell fishy.

(Tune: Sioux City Sue)

I met a gal in old Saigon
I asked her what was new.
She said I think this morning
They held another coup.
I don't know who they couped this time,
I surely don't know why
The only thing I know for sure,
We had a little coup!

I've laid around and stayed around
This old town too long,
Summer's almost gone,
A coup is coming on.

I've laid around and stayed around
This old Town too long
And I feel like I gotta travel on.

Bonuses are burning,
They're roasting in the fire (etc)

The gyrenes are surrounded
In their compounds (etc)

Ky writes to Thi
But Thi won't come home (etc)

Ky writes to Chien
but Chien can't come home (etc)

Col. Lieu is hiding
The Police won't crack down (etc)

They've barricaded Gia Long
With lots of barbed wire (etc)

Students are demonstrating
And they won't calm down (etc)

General Minh and General Khanh
Are waiting in the wings (etc)

General Co and General Thieu
Are packing up their bags (etc)

FULRO is happy
They'll be rid of Vinh Loc (etc)

Tri Quang and Tan Chau
Are waiting the Embassy (etc)

Civilians want democracy
With an old soft Sun (etc)

The Cosmos is closing
Our boozing's almost thru (etc)

We'll go to the Maritime
And watch the ships turn round (etc)

Archie doesn't fear VC
He's taking barricades down (etc)

THE LONGEST YEAR

There are boys of Special Forces
There are lads from USMC too
And the guys who fly the choppers
And of course there's me and you.

Refrain The longest year, the longest year
You know damn well was spent right here,
The longest year, the longest time
That I have ever spent!

It's gone on a whole lot longer
Than we thought in '62.
We'd be home a whole lot sooner
If it weren't for Madame Nhu.

We were working in liaison,
Told them everything we do,
And they put it in the papers
Said that we had planned a coup.

If they weren't out burning Buddhists
Or sealing pagoda walls,
They were finding ways to cheat us.
'Cause the load we had to haul.

If you ever come to Saigon,
Follow my instructions, kid -
Buy a ticket on to Bangkok,
You'll be very glad you did.

Refrain The longest year, the longest year
Was spent in Vietnam right here
The longest year, the longest time
That I have ever spent!

DON'T TELL ME I'VE NOTHING TO DO

Counting geckos on the wall,
That don't bother me at all,
Shooting VC until dawn,
Then my ammo's almost gone,
Drinking Ba Muc Ba and watching hamlets overrun...
Now don't tell me
I've nothing to do,

GHOST ADVISORS BY AND BY (Pre-Coup)

Some Tanks went out advising
Down there in South Vietnam.
But the people they advised
Didn't give a good Goddam.
The president and his family
Were sweating out a coup,
And the blamed the whole "Schamocnie"
On the likes of me and you.

Chorus Yippee aye yea, Yippee aye yea!
Ghost advisors by and by!

Some Buddhists did a "slow burn"
In Hue and in Saigon,
And you couldn't "watch the birdies,"
Unless you dodged the bombs.
The students, they got angry,
The Government closed the schools
And the "Times of Vietnam"
Called the U.S. a bunch of fools.

These advisors were notorious
For counter insurgency.
They collected "Lessons Learned"
For the Chief of "QUO VAM MY."
They gathered tons of data,
From the field in Vietnam.
(But down in Venezuela,
It won't be worth a damn.).

They worked for COMUSMACV
And for the Chief of MACG,
Who told Bob McNamara
That the war was "in the bag."
The Viet Cong were beaten
In this brave "Dien-cornay"
(They didn't tell the insurgents:
The omnipotent VU's.)

Yes, in the steaming jungles
And the plains of mud and rice,
Infested with mosquitoes,
Viet Cong and body lice,
There went the good advisors
And some "Vreconia Bunkies" too,
To save the little country
For the likes of Madame Nhu.

(Continued...)

They advised the Civil Guard
And the valiant SDC
They advised the Vietnamese
In the land, air and sea
And when the fights were over
When the "body count" was in
Our side had lost a hundred
And the VC only ten!

They built Strategic Hamlets
And they dispensed USOM aid.
They convinced the Montagnards
That they really had it made.
They defoliated jungles,
And herbicided rice,
As long as the Ambassador
Could afford the going price.

Then they headed for the airfield,
Out at good old Tan Son Nhat;
With boarding passes in their hands
And CIB's to boot.
"Little soldiers of misfortune,"
And, "Tools of CIA,"
They waited for jet planes
To touch that broad runway.

Now buddy, listen to them
And hear what they will say
They're gonna guard that aircraft
So don't get in their way.
They'll zap you with their crossbows
And their homemade rifles too,
Cause no seats exist on that craft
For the likes of me and you.

Vipex eye yea, Vipex eye yea,
Ghost advisors by and by.

HAOT FIGHT SONG

Let's fight on for COMUSMACV
He will lead us to victory
Send the ARVN out to fight
We'll stay in Saigon and see the fight.
For we are advisors and never fear
All our advice falls on little ears.
And the Vets fight on and on
Worried that we may go it alone.
So lets fight on for COMUSMACV,
We're going to win in '73,
Johnson'll send us more and more
Elections will help us shorten the war.

LET'S DO IT (Saigon version 1964, end Jan)

Who did it? Dinh did it,
Only others seem to think that Minh did it.
Let's do it, let's have a coup.

The word is out General Khanh did it.
(Wouldn't it be fun if Brother Can did it?)
Let's do it, let's have a coup.

Marines even way up in Hue do it,
No need for Khau, they just ago -
Tankin, they tell us, too, do it -
Tanks a lot from My Tho.

They say that Kim did it,
Don did it,
Certain factions seem to feel that Bung done did it -
Let's do it, let's have a coup.

THE STREETS OF SAIGON (Coups Time)

As I walked down the Streets of Saigon
As I walked down Le Loi one day,
I spied an ex-president all dressed in white linen
All wrapped in white linen and cold as the clay.

"I can see by your uniform you're an advisor."
These words he said as I slowly walked by.
"Come sit down beside me and hear my sad story,
I'm shot in the head and I'm sure to die.

"It was once I ruled wisely, once I ruled strongly
And loved my sister or so they did say,
But I kept my brother and so I ruled wrongly
For the Buddhists gone burning I know I must pay.

"Have sixteen dancers to carry my coffin
Have the girls down at Tu Do sing me a love song
Take me down Xa Loi, there lay the god over me,
Now that ISIS has scorned me, I know I've done wrong.

"Oh, blow the pipes slowly and beat the drum loudly,
Play a slow twist as you carry my pall
Put Dalat roses all over my coffin
To soften the tears of the press as they fall."

THE YELLOW ROSE OF SAIGON

She's the Yellow Rose of Saigon
And I think she banned the twist
But she's a real cute dolly
She's one I think I've missed.
You can talk about the President
And about his brother Han
But don't talk about my Yellow Rose
If you know what's good for you.

She's angry at the Buddhists
And she hates the New York Times
Because they always rib her
And accuse her of some crimes
What's a little joke about cock-outs
Or imported gasoline.
Why, that's real exaggeration
She's really not that mean.

Yes my little Rose of Saigon
Is just a refugee.
She fled down from Hanoi
To make jobs for you and me.
She's snowed old Maxwell Taylor
And Ambassador Nolting too,
Now JFK's her buddy
And gives her money too.

So my Yellow Rose of Saigon
Stays off of Tu Do street
She doesn't go for loving
But at intrigue she can't be beat.
I look for many changes
When she meets with Mr. Lodge
Cause it's said that he's a sucker
For eastern camouflage.

Yes my Little Rose of Saigon
is a veteran through and through.
She's careful with her money.
In case there is a Coup.
She's bound to salvage something
For all her enterprise
Before the VC lose their fight
Or America gets wise

Now my Yellow Rose of Saigon
Is in the USA
To be a UN member
In the good old fashioned way.
You can talk about the President
And about her husband Nhu
But don't talk about my Yellow Rose
If you know what's good for you.

MONTAGNARD SERGEANT (To the tune of "My Bonnie")

My mother's a Montagnard sergeant
 She draws pay pay and quarters to boot
 She lives in Saigon on per diem
 And always has plenty of loot.

CHORUS

Stay here, stay here,
 Oh, don't let the program go down, go down.
 Stay here, stay here,
 Cause Saigon's a real swinging town.

My father's a part time guerrilla,
 He gives all the ARVN a hit,
 By selling for twenty plasters
 A do it yourself ambush kit.

My sisters all work in the taverns,
 They encourage the soldiers to roam,
 Drink up cause you'll soon leave your loved ones
 And back to your wives back at home.

My brother's a poor missionary
 He saves all the girls from sin,
 He'll save you a girl for five dollars,
 My God; how the money rolls in.

Rolls in, rolls in,
 My God; how the money rolls in, rolls in,
 Rolls in, rolls in,
 My God how the money rolls in.

My grandpaw sells cheap prophylactics
 He punctures each head with a pin,
 While grandmaw grows rich on abortions,
 My God how the money rolls in.

THAT COUP DAY

Erno Saetta on "Coup" day
And all thru Saigon
Not a soldier was stirring
Not even old Ben
The plans were all checked
By Minh with great care
In hopes that a victory
They soon would declare.
The Nhu's were all nestled
So snug in their beds
While visions of power
Danced thru their heads.
With Dien in his nightshirt
And Nhu in his cap
Both settled down
For a hot sweaty nap.
When out on the roof
There arose such a clatter
Dien rose from his bed
To see what was the matter
Then that to his wondering eyes did appear
But SO's and SC's inspiring such fear
(Cause they were all shooting not there but here)
The tanks and the how's and the planes

Now they came

He started to think "How short-lived is fame?
Then all of a sudden his phone gave a jingle
(This happened quite often since he was still single)
"Give up and live or resist and die,
We'll give you till six to say no or yes"
He picked up his pants, down the staircase he flew
If I hadn't listened to dear Madame Nhu
I'd still have control instead of the Coup."
But now that it's here, I'd better get brother
To come up with crack troops and put down another
Attempt to take over the reigns of this realm
And let me get back to steering the helm.
So putting his fingers up to his nose
He gave them the sign that everyone knows,
And moving the bookcase so grand and so tall
Uncovered a doorway into a hall.
This passage was secret - not even Nhu knew
That this was "built in" for just such a "Coup"
It led to an alley outside of the grounds
To a spot that was in back of those loud barging sounds.
"We made it," cried Nhu with a voice loud and clear
But Dien started wisely "We are still too near"
So let's take that vehicle parked over there
I once drove an APC (It was a dare)"

continued...

They captured the driver and vehicle intact
And moved it out smartly (the vehicle was tracked)
Over the river and away from the coup
Dash away dash away dash away Mau
And all you could hear as they drove out of sight
Was "merci beaucoup," don't shoot all night.

The next day we heard so few of the facts
The rumors were flying about many facts.

But one thing we feel is essentially true
Some old is preserved, but there ain't no more Mau.

DON'T TAKE MY COUNTERPART AWAY (You are my sunshine)

In Southeast Asia, here in Vietnam,
What kind of war no one can say.
Some say insurgent, some psychologic,
Please don't take my counterpart away.

Down in the Delta, we have the VC, who come
Here from the North of Hue.
Some say guerilla, some next door neighbor,
Please don't take my counterpart away.

The other night dear, out in the Hamlet
I dreamed I held you in my arms
When I awoke dear it was the VC,
So I shot him down and I cried.

The high triumphant includes Westmoreland
with Throckmorton and Dick Stilwell,
They'll have the VC backed into China
Just don't take their counterparts away.

MACV FIGHT SONG

Buckle down, Westmoreland, buckle down,
You'll win, Henry Cabot - if you'll only buckle down,
You're both stars a plenty
At less than three and twenty
You'll win, Hank - Westy if you'll only buckle down.

MACV MARCHING SONG

Mine eyes have seen the glory
Of a thousand claymore mines.
There were booby traps and punji stakes
Among the jungle vines.
We have battled the mosquitoes
And every kind of bug
And with the VC girlies
I've exchanged a dozen hugs.

Gory, gory we were ambushed,
Gory, gory we were ambushed,
Gory, gory we were ambushed,
And we ain't going to fight no more.

Oh, mine eyes have seen the glory
of the Montagnards at play.
I have seen Strategic Hamlets
In every sort of way.
I have seen the troops of MACV
And have often heard them say
Let's get on with this war
So I can get away.

Glory, glory I'm in Vietnam
Glory, glory I'm in Vietnam
Glory, glory I'm in Vietnam
What a hell of a place to be!

O Little Town of Ban Me Thuot

O little town of Ban Me Thuot
How still we see thee lie,
The good Rhade are all at play,
Uprising in the night.

Yet in the dark streets shineth
A blazing FULRO flag,
The bad Jarai will have to die,
As ARVN they do fight.

The Twelve Days of Christmas

On the first day of Christmas
the VC gave to me...

Some plastic in a Dauphine
2 hand grenades
3 punji stakes
4 fallen flowers
5 claymore mines
6 sealed charges
7 birds a chinking
8 bar girls drinking
9 Saigon tears
10 tanks of napalm
11 Montagnards
12 butterflies

You Better Bug Out

Oh, you better bug out,
You better get high,
Draw your weapon
I'm telling you why,
Ho Chi Minh is coming to town.

He knows when ARVN's sleeping,
MACV is never awake,
He knows your ammo is never good,
So bug out for goodness sake.

Chorus... Oh, you better bug out, etc.

God Rest Ye General Montagnards

God rest ye General Montagnards
Let nothing you dismay
The First Air Cavalry
Was wiped out yesterday.

The Big Red One will get it next
Out at Michelin,

Oh, Tidings of comfort and joy
Comfort and joy,
Comfort and joy,
Oh, Tidings of comfort and joy.

Dashing thru Pleiku
With the First Air Cavalry
VC to my left
And a Rhade on my knee

Deck the Halls with Victor Char
Tra la la la la la la la la
Tis the season to be jolly
Tra la la la la la la la la
Don we now our black pajamas...

15.
The other night boys, as we lay sleeping,
We dreamed we had some JOT's.
Toilet trained and gunbox broken,
The blanket was their only need.

And so we dressed them,
And cory-acked them,
And sent them on their lonesome way,
To tease the VC
In the highlands
And through the Delta ream and play.

Now they've put swings in every hamlet,
The district chiefs they're winning now;
Gone are the dangers of John G'Reilly,
And Walt's to wed a sweet Hoa Hao.

We spank and spoil them,
We've almost weaned them,
Our sweet and pouting JOT's.
They'll learn their lesson,
To Stu confessin'
They can now buy Saigon tea.